

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 AID-20 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /104 W
----- 036520

R 110830 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2747

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, CASC, PINT, SOCI, AF

SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 0 67022; (B) KABUL 2265

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE DEPT' S COMMENTS ON KNIGHTON PRO-
POSAL IN REF A, WHICH CLOSELY PARALLEL OUR OWN THINKING ABOUT
PREFERRED FORMULA FOR ANY EVENTUAL ROLE FOR AMBASSADOR.
WE SEE SAME DANGERS SEEN BY DEPT AND ARE EXPLORING INFORMALLY
WITH MAP AND NOOR ORGANIZATIONS THE SAME FORMULA YOU HAVE
SUGGESTED. IT IS OF COURSE DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW NOOR MIGHT
BE HANDLED IN AN ANALOGOUS FASHION, BUT PROBLEM MIGHT BE
ADDRESSED JOINTLY BY BRITISH, GERMAN AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS
WITH RESPECT TO THEIR CITIZENS WORKING FOR NOOR, IF NOOR AS
AN ORGANIZATION WERE TO GIVE WRITTEN FORMAL GUARANTEES TO THE
AMBASSADORS COLLECTIVELY.

2. KNIGHTON MET APRIL 7 WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR PAZHWAK
AND KARIM AT FONMIN, AND CAME AWAY WITH CONSIDERABLE
ENCOURAGEMENT.
HE REPORTED TO US THAT HE HAD GIVEN THEM CATEGORIC ASSURANCES
THAT MAP WOULD SEND HOME ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO VIOLATED AFGHAN
LAW AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REACH A SATISFACTORY
UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS.
KNIGHTON EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD URGENT COMMITMENTS WHICH PREVENT
HIM FROM STAYING LONGER IN AFGHANISTAN AT THIS TIME TO NEGOTIATE
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THE MATTER, BUT PROMISED TO RETURN ON MAY 15 AND TO STAY AS LONG AS NECESSARY. KNIGHTON AND BLUMHAGEN REPORT THAT PAZHWAK THEN ASSURED THEM THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST MAP BEFORE THE END OF MAY, AND THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCT THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH ACCORDINGLY. FROM THEIR REPORT, IT APPEARS THAT BOTH CONVERSATIONS WERE CONSIDERABLY WARMER AND MORE OPTIMISTIC IN TONE THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE UP UNTIL KNIGHTON'S ARRIVAL.

3. THERE ARE A FEW OTHER STRAWS IN THE WIND WHICH SUGGEST THAT SHAFIQ MAY HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE VARIOUS SIGNALS WE HAVE BEEN SENDING HIM THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE DAMAGING FOR THE RGA AND THAT A COMPROMISE SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND. WE HAVE NOW OPENED AN INFORMAL NEGOTIATING CHANNEL TO SHAFIQ THROUGH ONE OF HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES IN THE PRIME MINISTRY, AND WILL BE PASSING THROUGH THAT CHANNEL TO HIM SHORTLY SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED IN REF A. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO ASSUME THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE ACHIEVED, THERE DOES SEEM TO BE SOME MORE REASON FOR CAUTIOUS HOPE THAN WAS TRUE A FEW DAYS AGO. EXEMPT. NEUMANN

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